

PATENT  
Serial No. 10/524,570  
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action mailed on December 27, 2006

IN THE DRAWING

Please replace FIG 4 with the enclosed replacement FIG 4.

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REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 27, 2006, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-10 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A'. Claims 1-10 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings because of lack of the label --Prior Art-- in FIG 4. In response, --Prior Art-- has been added to FIG 4. A replacement sheet including FIG 4 is enclosed. Applicant respectfully requests

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approval of the enclosed proposed drawing change.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5-6 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 5-6 and 9 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, allowance of independent claim 9 is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-4, 7-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,583,660 (Blon). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 and 10 are patentable over Blon for at least the following reasons.

Blon is directed to an active offset cancellation circuit for an open loop differential amplifier. As shown in FIG 2, and recited on column 7, lines 3-13, an operational amplifier (op-amp) OP2 242 compares outputs 238, 240 of amplifier 200, and places a control voltage on the gate of transistor N3N 244. If the voltage at output 240 is higher than the voltage at output 238, then the output of the op-amp OP2 242 is increased causing the gate to

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source voltage of transistor N3N 244 to be increased, which in turn increases the current drawn by transistor 244 from output 240 to ground. This reduces the current flowing across resistor 218 and therefore the voltage at output 240 drops. The amplifier 200 also includes an output common mode loop 220 having an op-amp OP1 that receives a common mode voltage VCM. It is alleged that the common mode voltage VCM is equivalent to a voltage source.

It is respectfully submitted that VCM is merely the voltage at the input of op-amp OP1. Assuming, arguendo, that VCM is equivalent to a voltage source, it is respectfully submitted that the so-called VCM 'source' is not connected between gates of two transistors, as recited in amended claims 1 and 9.

It is respectfully submitted that "means for introducing [which] include a voltage source connected between gates of two transistors," as recited in amended independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 10, is nowhere taught or suggested in Blon. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 10 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-8 should also be allowed at least based on

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their dependence from amended independent claim 1.

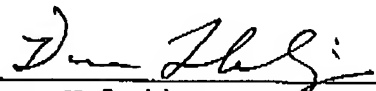
In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due beyond the fee for the Request for Continued Examination (RCE). However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to Applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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April 18, 2007

Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG 4)  
New Abstract  
RCE Transmittal  
Authorization to charge credit card \$790 for RCE fee

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